

Message Text

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20

ORIGIN AID-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 AGR-20 IGA-02 /108 R

DRAFTED BY SA/C:GKAMENS:REF

07/26/73

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EA/LC:LMRIVES (SUBS)

EA/TB:TBERGESEN (DRAFT)

A/SA:GZIMMERLY

NSC:JBUSHNELL (INFO)

S/S MR. BARNES

----- 068702

P 270603Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147763

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CB, TH

SUBJECT: RICE FOR CAMBODIA

REFS: A. PHNOM PENH 7269

B. SAIGON 12985

C. PHNOM PENH 7418

D. PHNOM PENH 7219

1. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW HERE OF RICE SITUATION IN CAMBODIA" VIETNAM, AND THAILAND, WE BELIEVE THAT PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL THAI RICE IS CLEARLY MOST PREFERABLE MEANS OF MEETING MID-AUGUST CAMBODIA REQUIREMENTS. MOST FEASIBLE WAY WE SEE TO INCREASE PHNOM PENH'S STOCKS BY 12-13,000 TONS BY MID-AUGUST IS FOR KHMER TO MAKE URGENT AND SERIOUS
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EFFORT TO BUY ADDITIONAL RICE IN THAILAND. ONLY AFTER KHMER

MAKE ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO PROCURE THAI RICE ARE WE PREPARED TO PUSH VIETNAM FURTHER.

2. SITUATION OUTLINED PARA. 8, REF C, AND REF. E IS VERY DISCOURAGING. IF GKR HAS NOT BY NOW ACTED PROMPTLY AND WITH DUE REGARD FOR THEIR OWN SERIOUS NEEDS (AS IT SEEMS TO BE BELATEDLY DOING NOW RE ROUTES 4 AND 5 DELIVERIES), YOU SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR TO THEM THAT THEIR ONLY HOPE FOR GETTING ADDITIONAL RICE BY MID-AUGUST IS TO PURCHASE THAI BROKENS, AND THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT ON PURCHASE AND SHIPPING. CAN YOU OR BANGKOK SUPPLY ANY DETAILS ON REASONS FOR THAI DELAYS (REF. E, PARA. 5) IN MOVING RICE ORIGINALLY PROMISED FOR JULY MOVEMENT.

3. IF GKR ACTS PROMPTLY AND AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO PROCURE THIS RICE, WE ARE PREPARED TO FOLLOW UP WITH THAI GOVERNMENT AT A HIGH LEVEL IN CASE THERE IS A LAG ON THAT END.

4. THAILAND ALSO SEEMS MOST LIKELY SOURCE FOR SUPPLYING ADDITIONAL RICE FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER DELIVERY, SO IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT GKR ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE PURCHASE ARRANGEMENTS ASAP. ROGERS

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